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Agenda item 126
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Experience with resident investigators, including proposals and plans for the future review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in the context of peacekeeping budgets

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is being submitted pursuant to the request made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/56/887, para. 55) that the Secretary-General prepare a report on the experience so far with resident investigators, including proposals and plans for the future review by the Committee in the context of budgets for peacekeeping for the period starting 1 July 2003.

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I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the use of resident versus regional investigators in peacekeeping operations (A/56/887, para. 55). The present report attempts to provide such an analysis, taking into account the views of the Advisory Committee, namely, that investigation is by nature a reactive function, that the structure for this function need not be a mirror image of the function of resident auditors and that various options should be explored, including regional approaches in collaboration with other United Nations partners such as funds, programmes and specialized agencies that may be in the area of concern.

2. Since its establishment in 1994, the Office of Internal Oversight Services has received reports of violations of United Nations rules, regulations and national laws in peacekeeping missions around the world and has conducted investigations using the resources assigned to the Office at Headquarters. Until 2000, it was possible with such resources, limited though they were, to investigate many of those reported violations. Since 2000, the volume of reports alleging violations in the peacekeeping missions has increased significantly, and the ability of the Office to investigate even the most serious of those cases has diminished.

3. Because of this surging caseload, temporary ad hoc arrangements were made to alleviate the impediments to timely investigation of the most serious cases. The concept of the resident investigator was born and grew over time to be a very successful way in which to quickly and efficiently investigate peacekeeping cases. However, in the light of the view of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that investigations should be done on a case-by-case basis by investigators based at Headquarters or in regional offices (see ibid., para. 54), alternative concepts have been explored, such as that of establishing regional investigators for peacekeeping activities. The present report attempts to identify the pros and cons inherent in the two concepts, but finally makes a case for the use of regional investigators via the provision of 12 additional posts for the Investigations Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

II. Background

4. The maintenance of peace and security represents a priority area identified in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005[1] and is further emphasized in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/56/326). The Office of Internal Oversight Services constantly endeavours to assist the Organization to adopt the best internal management practices, and the internal oversight programme has included risk management as a required tool for identifying risk areas, for prioritizing its annual work plan and for allocating its resources. In paragraph 18 of its resolution 56/241 of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly made the Office responsible for reviewing peacekeeping operations, among other things, as a result of which it will test risk management tools in its reviews of a selected number of peacekeeping missions.

5. In 2000, ad hoc temporary arrangements were made to provide several peacekeeping missions with investigative resources for the Office of Internal

Oversight Services. This arrangement has made it possible for investigations to be carried out in a timely and efficient manner, but has subjected the investigators to a variety of short-term postings. A stable arrangement with dedicated, budgeted posts is essential for carrying out the necessary investigations.

III. Role of the Investigations Division in peacekeeping operations

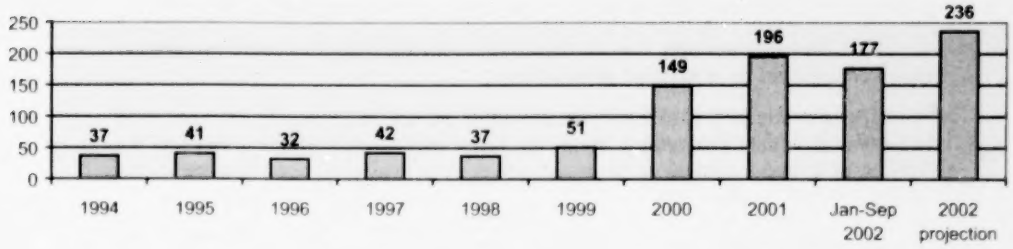
6. Since the establishment of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in 1994, the number of cases relating to peacekeeping missions has increased significantly each year. To illustrate the increasing workload of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in peacekeeping matters, the following statistics are provided. In the six-year period between 1994 and 1999, the Office received a total of 240 peacekeeping cases — an average of 40 per year. Until approximately August 2000, such inquiries were serviced by New York-based investigators funded from the regular budget who travelled to the relevant mission area.

7. Before August 2000, decisions as to which cases were investigated were based on priority. For example, each case must be assessed on the basis of the level of risk to which the Organization would be exposed if the matter were not investigated. Not every case can be a priority of the Office and demand an immediate response. It should also be noted that single cases in remote locations will not usually attract scarce investigative resources, whereas a significant case in a location with a number of other cases may be more efficient from a cost and resource perspective, and therefore be assigned investigative resources.

8. By the end of 2000, the Office had become increasingly aware of the burgeoning caseload in the various peacekeeping missions. This led to a decision to place mission-based (resident) investigators in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), and later on in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), using ad hoc funding. In the biennium 2000-2001, the Office received a total of 345 peacekeeping cases — an average of 173 cases per year. In the period from 1 January to 30 September 2002, the Office received 177 cases, which, based on statistical probability, equates to approximately 236 cases by the end of the year. This estimate of peacekeeping cases in the calendar year 2002 represents an increase of 36 per cent over the previous two years. The ratio of Department of Peacekeeping Operations cases to the total was 20 to 30 per cent in the period from 1994 to 1999 and 40 to 45 per cent since 2000. In this connection, it should be noted that the Office of Internal Oversight Services collaborates with funds and programmes under a framework of memorandums of understanding by which the Office provides investigative services to them on a reimbursable basis. This is primarily as a result of the investigative expertise available in the Office and the very small number of investigators in the funds and programmes. The current proposal for an additional 12 posts for the use of the Investigations Division reflects the need to strengthen the ability to respond to the increasing caseload in the peacekeeping missions.

9. The large number of cases reported to the Office involving peacekeeping operations indicates that it must have sufficient resources available to conduct the necessary investigations and assist in the reduction of fraud and waste in the Organization.

Peacekeeping investigative cases received by the Office of Internal Oversight Services



10. The demonstrated growth in cases reflects in part the physical presence of investigators in the missions. Such a presence increases the awareness by staff of violations of United Nations regulations and rules and national laws and results in their making reports to the Office. The Office has also found that management has availed itself of the opportunity to interact directly with mission-based investigators rather than reporting the matter to Headquarters and waiting for the arrival of New York-based staff. More importantly, this indicates that staff and managers alike appreciate the ease of accessibility to investigators to provide confidential reports to the Office.

IV. Terms of reference of investigators

11. Investigators carry out the following functions in peacekeeping missions:

(a) They provide investigative services based on an assessment of priorities under the operational supervision of the Director of the Investigations Division in New York. These services are provided in accordance with the mandate of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as set out in General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244, the related administrative instruction (ST/AI/397), the Manual of the Investigations Division and the uniform standards for investigations;

(b) They retrieve evidence, review and analyse case materials, conduct interviews with witnesses and subjects, maintain evidence, draft reports of investigations and provide recommendations to the senior investigator in the mission, pending submission to the Field Operations Management Unit of the Investigations Division in New York and the Director of the Division regarding the final disposition of a case;

(c) Senior investigators plan, organize, conduct and supervise investigations conducted by subordinate investigators, including in serious and complex matters. They manage the work programme of offices of the Investigations Division at peacekeeping missions, report to the Field Operations Management Unit on the work performed by the office and make recommendations with regard to disposition of cases. They prepare and/or supervise the cases for submission to the internal justice system of the United Nations or to national penal or civil jurisdictions;

(d) The senior investigator ensures the compliance of Investigations Division activities in his or her area of operations with legal and reporting requirements as applicable in the United Nations and/or in the relevant national jurisdiction;

(e) Investigators may also be requested to testify before internal disciplinary review committees or in national jurisdictions;

(f) Investigators also focus on providing advice to managers and assessing the potential within programme areas for fraud and other violations through the analysis of systems control in high-risk areas as provided in the mandate of the Office;

(g) Investigators provide fraud and corruption prevention assistance in the form of advice, consultation and training for programme managers at the peacekeeping missions, including staff members performing senior managerial functions at the municipal and regional levels;

(h) Investigators also provide oversight advice in investigative matters as well as training, if required, for officers in the security and safety sections of the peacekeeping missions selected to undertake basic investigative duties for boards of inquiry. This could entail the provision of advice on the conduct of such investigations or acting in an advisory role on matters being reported to the boards.

12. As the experience with UNTAET, UNMIK and MONUC has shown, the continuous physical presence of investigators in a mission area has served and would continue to serve the following purposes:

(a) Timeliness in addressing investigative cases;

(b) Deterrence to the risk of fraud or violations of the United Nations rules and regulations and national laws;

(c) Allowing investigators to observe the mission environment and to collect case-specific background information critical to successful case resolution;

(d) Assisting the staff and management of peacekeeping missions in building trust in the investigative process;

(e) Assisting the Office of Internal Oversight Services to utilize risk management as a tool for addressing ongoing systemic problems in peacekeeping missions;

(f) Facilitating continuous interaction with mission management by the investigators and assisting the building of trust between the entities;

(g) Increasing the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of investigative services.

V. The case for regional versus mission-based investigators

13. The foregoing description of the function, value and experience with respect to the use of investigators based in peacekeeping missions over the past two years has been included in the present report to satisfy the request of the Advisory Committee. This sets out the problems identified by the Office of Internal Oversight Services with the concept of mission-based investigators since 2000. An evaluation of the

positive aspects of establishing regional investigators to service peacekeeping missions around the world will also be provided.

A. Mission-based investigators

14. While the Office is very pleased with the results of mission-based investigators, especially with the ability of the team to handle large and small matters in a more timely fashion and to provide mission management with solutions to recurring or individual problems, the lack of independence and control is a negative factor in the work of such investigators.

15. The presence of investigators has been welcomed by mission management as a means of solving local problems in a time-efficient and effective manner, without the need to consult with Headquarters and compete for scarce investigative resources. Furthermore, the resident investigators do not need to travel from New York to address those issues in the respective missions. However, at this juncture, the arrangement satisfies the requirements of only two missions, namely, UNMIK and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), and only on an ad hoc basis.

16. A number of newly hired investigators have completed a one-week induction course on the United Nations and the Office of Internal Oversight Services in New York aimed at preparing them for their postings to mission areas prior to commencing duty. However, one week is insufficient preparation for such an important role in the field. In certain cases, the cost of bringing new staff to New York is prohibitive, and it is more cost-effective to have them commence in the field, bypassing New York and the induction phase there. In such cases, a member of the Investigations Division usually visits the new staff member in the mission and provides the induction on-site. The Office is of the view that staff new to the United Nations and to the Office have benefited greatly from the induction experience at Headquarters.

17. The conduct of investigations is generally accepted to be a reactive process. This is true for the simpler cases. However, on many occasions, local knowledge and research on the personnel involved and the practices of the mission provide a significant boost to successful investigations. In many such cases, the issue of motivation cannot be determined through a quick and clinical investigation. Time must be devoted to talking with a variety of persons in the mission area so as to learn the subtleties of the work environment and the people involved. In many ways, this is something that is developed over time and not in a short visit to the mission.

18. While mission-based investigators have successfully investigated a number of cases over the past years in those missions, they focus only on cases in their immediate locale. Mission-based investigators are not generally involved in the other peacekeeping missions. At present, New York-based investigators must handle all the other peacekeeping cases outside of UNMIK and UNMISET. Such investigations will occur only after an assessment has been made of the significance of the individual case, however, they will also be assessed against the remaining non-peacekeeping cases reported to the Office. As a result, many peacekeeping cases routinely remain on the inactive list owing to a lack of resources necessary to conduct such investigations.

B. Regional investigators

19. In view of the absence of investigators in most peacekeeping missions, the mandated requirement to do mission-based investigations means that investigators based at Headquarters must travel to the field; as such, the concept of having regional investigators in Africa and Europe has merit as a means of utilizing investigators in two regions for most field investigations, with support as needed from Headquarters. This would ensure that investigators are in reasonable proximity to the Mission and that investigators have the required independence. All investigators must be — and be seen to be — operationally independent, and as such sufficiently removed from the authority of a peacekeeping mission to ensure that the integrity of the investigation, the process of receiving and investigating complaints and the findings of the investigation are not compromised. At present, the Office of Internal Oversight Services has two regional offices in duty stations away from Headquarters — in Geneva and Nairobi. Both offices currently are assigned two investigators who focus primarily on matters arising in the general vicinity of their duty station, usually having to do with programmes funded by the regular budget, but also including some cases involving funds and programmes. As of this year, the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda fund a number of biennial posts for investigators.

20. Regional peacekeeping investigators would be placed in Nairobi and either Geneva, where the Office already has a presence, or in Vienna, a location that is convenient to mission areas. It should be noted, however, that *all* investigative activity would involve travel from Nairobi, Geneva or Vienna to the respective peacekeeping mission, thus entailing additional costs in order for investigative matters to be undertaken in the missions.

21. Regional investigators must be able to respond quickly to critical cases. Response time is a major determinant in assessing the best location for the placement of investigators. Given that the majority of peacekeeping operations are in Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe, locating regional offices requires an assessment of the accessibility of cost-efficient, regular air services and the ability to reassign resources in a timely manner.

22. For example, regional investigators in Nairobi would be well-placed to provide speedy access to a number of African peacekeeping operations, as well as those in the Middle East and Central Asia. Access to such locations by air from Kenya is relatively simple and cost-efficient. The large United Nations presence in Kenya, including a branch of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, provides the necessary support structure for such a proposal.

23. Geneva would be equally suitable for this proposal. It is a large headquarters duty station with an established support structure and facilities, and the Office has already established a presence there. Geneva provides access to a range of air services for international travel.

24. Vienna is another European duty station that could be considered. It is also a large United Nations headquarters duty station with well-established administrative support structures. Vienna is also a major European aviation hub with direct access to virtually any region of the world.

25. The concept of regional investigators has significant merit from the point of view of managing investigations. If regional investigators were located in Europe and Africa, the management of investigations would become more effective. For example, European and Eastern African time zones are within one or two hours of each other. This would allow virtually concurrent communications between investigators in the field and those responsible for the management of investigations in either Europe or Africa.

26. Regional investigators rather than mission-based investigators would, therefore, be the preferred option based on geographic proximity and timeliness.

C. Caseload

27. The Office of Internal Oversight Services has received an ever-increasing number of cases annually since its inception in 1994. As at 30 June 2002, the Office had received 2,221 cases. The nature of the cases that remain active investigations — approximately 300 at any point in time — varies from reasonably simple entitlement fraud to the most complex corruption cases. In the entitlement fraud cases, anywhere from one week to a month is required for one investigator to complete the investigation and produce a report. However, the complex corruption cases can take 12 months or more and require the services of several investigators. During the past three calendar years, the Office has received more cases in the latter category than in the former.

28. By monitoring the time spent by investigators on active cases, the Office has determined that, as a working average for each investigation, 250 person-hours are required to conduct the investigation and produce a report. That figure is used to facilitate the limited planning that is possible for a primarily reactive unit. For example, based on the figures for the period from 2000 to 2002 (refer to the table in para. 9 above, which includes a projection based on current case numbers in 2002), cases involving peacekeeping matters average 194 per year.

29. To be able to handle that caseload in peacekeeping each year (194 cases times 250 hours per investigation), 48,500 hours of investigator time would be required, representing approximately 30 investigators.

30. At this stage, it is estimated that an additional 12 posts would be required to strengthen the ability to respond to the significant peacekeeping caseload, as follows: four P-3, four P-4 and two P-5 posts. In addition, two General Service (Other level) posts would be required to assist in the administration of those investigations. The General Service staff would be assigned to each regional office to assist with administrative responsibilities arising from the conduct of peacekeeping investigations.

D. Regional investigator costs

31. Office of Internal Oversight Services staff travelling to investigate peacekeeping matters took 35 separate trips during the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, which covered more than 60 individual investigations. They travelled to a range of locations outside of UNMIK and UNMISET where the Office had to conduct investigative activities, as well as several trips used for the training of the

Department of Peacekeeping Operations security and safety staff involved in general investigative activities in peacekeeping missions.

32. To support the case for regional investigators to be located in Europe and Africa, as opposed to North America, the Office has undertaken a survey of the costs of official travel from Headquarters to a range of other duty stations and compared those figures with the cost of travel to similar locations from Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. From those figures it is clear that travel from Europe and Nairobi to the various peacekeeping missions would be significantly less costly than the same travel originating from New York.

33. The regional arrangement proposed would entail more cost-efficient travel from a regional hut to the peacekeeping missions as compared with travel from New York, but as a result of the physical location of the investigators outside of the peacekeeping missions, all investigative activity undertaken by regional investigators would require travel funds, including daily subsistence allowance for periods ranging from 21 to 30 days. Case progression would not be possible if travel to the mission were for a period of less than 21 to 30 days.

34. Based on the above comparisons and the reduced travel time involved, it would appear that the placement of regional investigators in Europe and Africa would be more efficient than the current arrangement, enabling the Office of Internal Oversight Services to investigate and complete more cases than current staffing levels and placements allow. It would also greatly facilitate interactions with the various peacekeeping missions owing to the lack of a significant time difference, which is so problematic when New York is the base of operations.

VI. Conclusion

35. **Resources for the establishment of 12 investigator posts to be located in Europe and Africa, together with provisions for their support, will be sought in the context of the financing of and the provision of support to peacekeeping operations for the period from July 2003 to June 2004, subject to guidance by the General Assembly.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).

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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 22 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to draw your attention to the latest incident of Palestinian terrorism directed against the citizens of Israel.

Yesterday afternoon, at the height of the rush hour, near the Israeli city of Hadera, Palestinian suicide bombers collided a vehicle packed with powerful explosives with a public bus bound for Tel Aviv. The initial damage was limited to the rear of the bus, which sustained the brunt of the explosion, and several passengers were able to escape. Those in the rear, however, were trapped by the flames and were eventually killed when the gasoline tank caught fire and ignited a massive explosion. That explosion completely destroyed the bus, along with several other nearby vehicles, and scattered debris over a wide area. In total, 14 Israelis were killed in the attack and more than 40 others were injured, among them several children who were in a car near the bus at the time of the explosion. The Syrian-based Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.

Israel holds the Palestinian leadership fully responsible for yesterday's repugnant attack, as it does for all terrorist attacks emanating from the territory under its control. The Palestinian leadership has manifestly failed to fulfil its responsibilities to end all acts of terrorism and to prevent its territory from serving as a base for attacks on civilians. Israel further holds the Government of Syria responsible, in the light of its ongoing support for terrorist organizations, including providing them with safe harbour, as well as financial, logistical and political support, in defiance of Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1373 (2001).

The Palestinian leadership has thus far failed to take any steps to fulfil its responsibilities under the recently adopted resolution 1435 (2002), which demands an end to all acts of violence, terrorism and incitement, and calls for those responsible for terrorist acts to be brought to justice. Rather than fulfilling its

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obligations to fight terrorism, the Palestinian security forces have focused their efforts instead on targeting so-called "collaborators", one of whom, Walid Hamdiyeh, was sentenced to death this past Friday in a trial that lasted just a few hours. It is clear that the failure to act against known terrorists is not a failure of ability, but rather of political will.

To distract attention from its failure to live up to its commitments, the Palestinian side continues to accuse Israel of defying the Security Council, deliberately ignoring the many Security Council calls for Palestinian action that have been blatantly ignored. Even as the Council calls for steps to be taken to fight Palestinian terrorism, the Palestinian Authority continues to encourage, finance and support such attacks. Even as the international community calls for an end to violence and incitement, the Palestinian Authority continues to justify attacks as acts of "legitimate resistance".

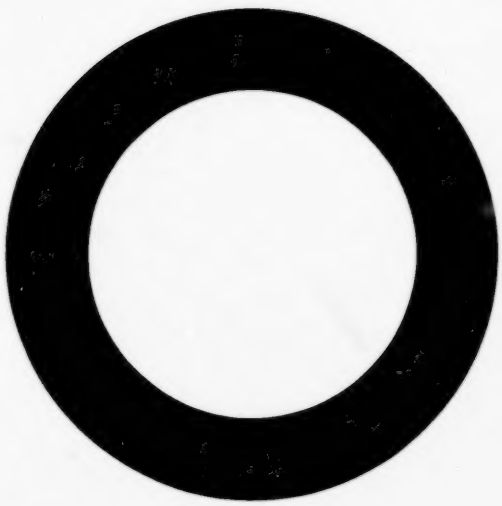
So long as the Palestinian leadership defends acts of terrorism against Israelis as being legitimate, these attacks are sure to continue. It is therefore imperative that the international community condemn in the strongest terms suicide bombings and other criminal acts of terrorism, as well as the ongoing support and involvement of the current Palestinian leadership in such acts.

Israel further calls upon the Palestinian leadership to fulfil its obligations to arrest terrorist leaders and bring them to justice, as required by resolution 1435 (2002), and to end incitement in the official media and all financial, logistical and moral support for acts of terrorism, in accordance with its signed commitments and the resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolution 1373 (2001). Only an end to the heinous campaign of Palestinian terrorism, with its terrible cost in Israeli and Palestinian lives, can restore hope of achieving a lasting settlement between Israelis and Palestinians.

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2000.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 160 and 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative



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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 96
Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/227 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001.

The report outlines the steps taken to operationalize the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; the mainstreaming of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 by the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations and bodies within their programmes of work, and within intergovernmental processes; the coordination and cooperation between the Office of the High Representative and the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations; and support provided to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative by Member States.

* The report was submitted late to the conference services in view of the timing of the establishment and limited staffing situation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its fifty-seventh session, a report on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/CONF.191/11) contains a set of seven specific commitments made by the least developed countries and their development partners. These commitments relate to the following areas: (a) fostering a people-centred policy framework; (b) good governance at the national and international levels; (c) building human and institutional capacities; (d) building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries; (e) enhancing the role of trade in development; (f) reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment; and (g) mobilizing financial resources.

3. Poverty eradication, gender equality, employment, governance, capacity-building, sustainable development, special problems of the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States are singled out in the Programme of Action as cross-cutting issues. The objective of the Programme of Action is to achieve substantial progress towards meeting the development goal of reducing poverty, set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (Assembly resolution 55/2).

II. Actions taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/227

A. Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

4. Learning from previous experience and lessons learned in implementing the two previous programmes of action devoted to the least developed countries, the Brussels Programme of Action underscored the importance of an effective and highly visible follow-up mechanism for overseeing its implementation, coordination, review and monitoring. After consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/56/645 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1-2), the General Assembly, by resolution 56/227, established the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

5. Subsequently, in March 2002, the Secretary-General appointed Anwarul K. Chowdhury as the High Representative. The High Representative participates in the Senior Management Group, chaired by the Secretary-General, and is also a member of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. The Office of the High Representative is working closely and with due urgency with the Office of Human Resources Management for the recruitment of qualified staff to fill the posts

approved by the General Assembly. In the meantime, with a small but dedicated team, the Office has been able to undertake a number of activities and to submit all of the required reports to the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies. Although several requests have been made, the Office has not received any staff on secondment from other United Nations organizations, mainly owing to their own budgetary constraints.

6. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its forty-second session held from 10 June to 5 July 2002, recommended approval, with modifications, of programme 26, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 26)).[1] In accordance with the programme, the Office of the High Representative is to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system; establish and maintain linkages with other parts of the United Nations system; coordinate the system of focal points on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; review and analyse country-level implementation; provide support to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in assessing progress and in conducting annual reviews of the implementation of the relevant programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; assist in the mobilization of international support and resources; undertake advocacy work; provide support for group consultations; establish close coordination with the multilateral organizations involved in the development of the least developed countries in Africa, particularly within the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; assist the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in establishing, at the country level, an effective mechanism for the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and other related programmes in their respective countries; and promote South-South cooperation.

7. The parliamentary support provided to the General Assembly, including the preparation of relevant reports, as well as the support provided to annual ministerial meetings of the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries and to group consultations of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, are now provided by the Office of the High Representative. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has agreed to prepare statistical profiles on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, based on its *Statistical Yearbook* or *World Statistics Pocketbook*. A new web site, which will cover issues related to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and relevant issues related to small island developing States is being developed and will be maintained by the Office of the High Representative. The Office web site will also be linked to the relevant database of the Statistics Division related to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. In this context, the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSnet), managed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will be an important link for issues related to small island developing States. The Office of the High Representative will provide, within its respective mandate, relevant support to the Forum of Small States, which is being held within the framework of annual meetings of the World Bank.

8. In its resolution 56/227, the General Assembly invited Member States to extend all necessary support and cooperation to the Office of the High Representative and also requested the Secretary-General to seek voluntary contributions for the Office. Further to the contacts established with representatives of Member States by the High Representative, on 6 September 2002, the Secretary-General addressed a letter to Member States, requesting them to extend all necessary support and cooperation and also to make voluntary contributions to enable the Office of the High Representative to carry out fully its functions in support of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, as well as the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community[2] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.[3] In the letter addressed to Member States, the Secretary-General reiterated the cardinal importance of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level. All of the least developed countries that have not yet done so are encouraged to establish national forums to follow up and monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action by each least developed country and its development partners. South-South cooperation has an important role to play, and developing countries will want to support the development efforts of those countries that represent the poorest and weakest segments of the community of nations.

B. Collaboration with organizations of the United Nations system

9. The Office of the High Representative is expected to build a global advocacy role in order to ensure that the issues of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States remain high on the international agenda. It will mobilize international support for issues such as eradication of poverty, capacity-building, acceleration of economic growth and sustainable development, and the promotion of progressive and beneficial global integration of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States through efficient, effective and highly visible follow-up to, and coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the relevant programmes of action. It will also contribute to the implementation of the relevant and related development goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

10. The Office of the High Representative has the responsibility for United Nations system-wide coordination, follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community. The Office is also coordinating the preparatory process for the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation to be held in Kazakhstan in 2003. This is being done in full collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the regional commissions, the World Bank and other relevant multilateral organizations. A separate report on this issue (A/57/340) is before the Assembly at its current session.

11. A key focus of the Office will be on monitoring the implementation of commitments in the Programme of Action by both the least developed countries and

donor countries. The Office will work closely with partners in the United Nations Development Group, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to ensure that full support is provided by the United Nations resident coordinator system to the least developed countries in their efforts to translate actions in the Programme of Action into concrete measures within each national development framework. The implementation of the Programme of Action will need to be incorporated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper processes in the least developed countries, as applicable.

12. The High Representative briefed senior officials of UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNCTAD, the World Health Organization, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, the World Trade Organization, (WTO), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Food Programme, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) between April and July 2002, on the mandate and planned activities of the Office and discussed with them ways of ensuring the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including the need to identify in each entity a focal point for the least developed countries. A number of organizations of the United Nations system have already designated such focal points. This will facilitate the flow of information and regular contacts between the Office and the organizations of the United Nations system.

13. The High Representative has held meetings on a regular basis with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and other senior officials of the UNCTAD secretariat on various aspects of cooperation. The Office of the High Representative and UNCTAD made constructive contributions to the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002. The High Representative participated in the sessional committee on the least developed countries at the forty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board, held in October 2002. The Office of the High Representative and UNCTAD jointly launched the *Least Developed Countries Report 2002*,[4] prepared by the secretariat of UNCTAD, in New York on 17 June 2002. The report has a special focus on the nature of poverty in the least developed countries.

14. The Office of the High Representative has also established working relations with the African Union, the Organization of American States, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Pacific Islands Forum, the South African Development Community, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the Caribbean Community, as well as regional development banks. Since the least developed countries are constituents of these organizations, it is important that the organizations focus on the development efforts of the least developed countries in their regions or subregions and, in particular, on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The recent adoption by the African Union of the New Partnership for Africa's Development provides an opportunity for reinforcing and complementing development efforts in the 34 African least developed countries.

15. The Office of the High Representative will also promote linkages with civil society, including non-governmental organizations involved in the development efforts of the least developed countries, as well as with the private sector, academia and foundations, in an attempt to forge closer cooperation so that they might respond more substantively to the concerns of the least developed countries.

C. Mainstreaming the implementation of the Programme of Action

16. The global campaign recently launched by the Secretary-General to achieve the millennium development goals, incorporates the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States as key targets. The Office of the High Representative is working with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to ensure that they mainstream the Programme of Action in their activities and in their intergovernmental processes.

17. UNCTAD has taken a number of concrete steps towards mainstreaming the relevant actions and commitments contained in the Programme of Action into its functions and in the work of its intergovernmental machinery. It has reoriented its work towards activities focusing on research and policy analysis, technical cooperation and capacity-building. UNCTAD has played the role of focal point within the United Nations system for the implementation of the programmes of action for the least developed countries for the 1980s and 1990s. Thus, UNCTAD has integrated the Brussels Programme of Action in its work programme and in the work of its intergovernmental machinery. In addition, new institutional arrangements were put in place to enhance, within its areas of competence, the consideration by UNCTAD of these issues in order to maximize the benefits for the least developed countries. The Trade and Development Board, at its nineteenth special session held at Bangkok in April 2002, decided that the Board would devote more attention to addressing concerns of the least developed countries. Its sessional committee on the least developed countries, its work adjusted accordingly, will continue to focus on coordinating, reviewing and monitoring all UNCTAD activities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and hold discussions on the substantive and analytical issues of interest to the least developed countries. The outcome of these deliberations will be channelled to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly as input into the respective reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action. These and other related UNCTAD activities will be included in the comprehensive report which will be prepared by the Office of the High Representative for submission to the Economic and Social Council in connection with its annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, to be undertaken in accordance with Council resolution 2002/33 of 26 July 2002.

18. The Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, in decision 2002/14 of 27 June 2002,[5] stressed the need for continuing special attention by UNDP to the implementation of the Programme of Action and invited the UNDP Administrator to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action in UNDP activities, as well as in the activities of UNDP-managed funds, in particular those of UNCDF. By decision 2002/25 of 26 September 2002, the Executive Board invited the Executive Director of UNFPA to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action in UNFPA activities within its programme of work. The Executive Board of UNICEF, in decision 2002/8 of 7 June 2002,[6] requested UNICEF to continue to give

special attention to the least developed countries in its programme of activities and emphasized the importance of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action by UNICEF within its mandate. It also invited the Executive Director of UNICEF to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action in UNICEF activities.

19. The governing bodies of other entities, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and WTO, have taken decisions to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action. The involvement of the World Bank is important as a key development partner in the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, in particular in the context of the preparation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers at the country level.

20. The United Nations Development Group has taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action to mainstream its implementation for the least developed countries through existing mechanisms for the provision of assistance at the country level. The resident coordinators and members of the United Nations country teams have been advised of the need to support the process of formulating a poverty reduction strategy in each country. The strategy formulated by each country to reduce poverty will reflect the needs and situation of each country, as well as the recommendations of United Nations conferences, including those contained in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, where Governments find these recommendations relevant and appropriate. In addition to supporting the national strategy formulation process, the United Nations country team prepares the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, outlining the major development results to be supported by the Government and the United Nations system, and reflecting national priorities and the comparative advantage of the United Nations system. The Brussels Programme of Action will be an important guide to both government and the United Nations system in this process.

21. In view of the limited capacity of most least developed countries for the collection of data to monitor progress on an annual basis, the United Nations country teams have been advised that they should work with Governments to identify the key poverty indicators for each country. The United Nations country teams will assist in increasing national capacity to collect and use the necessary data to monitor progress in reducing poverty, and to allow each Government to revise its national poverty reduction strategies, as necessary.

D. Review of the title and functions of the Office of the Special Coordinator, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

22. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its forty-second session held from 10 June to 5 July 2002, considered and recommended approval, with modifications, of the revisions proposed to programme 9, Trade and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 6)).[7] Subprogramme 5 of programme 9 relates to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and, in accordance with the revisions, the unit responsible for subprogramme 5 is to be renamed as the Special Programme on the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small

Island Developing States, reflecting the action taken by the Assembly in its resolution 56/227.

23. According to the revised medium-term plan, the functions of the new organizational unit will include (a) following up, monitoring and assessing progress in the implementation of the relevant outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, General Assembly resolutions and other international initiatives that fall within the areas of expertise of UNCTAD; (b) following up the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries; (c) facilitating the implementation of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community; and (d) contributing to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

24. Activities undertaken in accordance with the subprogramme will further contribute, in aspects relevant to UNCTAD, to the consideration by the General Assembly and other relevant intergovernmental forums of the specific problems of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and the coordination of technical assistance activities within UNCTAD in favour of those countries. This would include the development of transit systems in transit developing countries.

E. Support at the regional level

25. The Brussels Programme of Action, emphasized that the relevant regional commissions should undertake, in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations, periodic subregional and regional monitoring and review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action (A/CONF.191/11, para. 105). Such subregional and regional arrangements will be based on existing mechanisms. In this context, ECA, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and ESCAP will play a leading role in their respective regions. The High Representative has initiated consultations with the executive secretaries of ECA and ESCAP on mainstreaming the Programme of Action into the work programmes of relevant regional and subregional organizations. The High Representative will participate in the forthcoming ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Planning which is to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 19 to 21 October 2002.

F. Review by the Economic and Social Council

26. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2001/320 of 22 October 2001, decided to establish, under the agenda item entitled "Integrated and coordinated follow-up to the major conferences and summits", a regular sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010". Pursuant to that decision, the High Representative made an oral report to the Council on 18 July 2002, on the review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of

Action and put forward recommendations for the effective undertaking of the annual review (see E/2002/SR.29).

27. In resolution 2002 of 26 July 2002, the Council took note of the oral report and requested the High Representative to submit a comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action to the Council at its substantive session of 2003, and invited the High Representative to consult with Member States on the appropriate format, such as, inter alia, a matrix of achievement, for such a comprehensive report. In the same resolution, the Council reaffirmed that global-level follow-up to the Programme of Action should be primarily concerned with assessing the economic and social performance of the least developed countries, monitoring the implementation of commitments by the least developed countries and their partners, reviewing the function of the implementation and follow-up mechanisms at the country, subregional, regional and sectoral levels, and policy developments at the global level with implications for the least developed countries.

28. Further, the Council invited each least developed country, with the support of its development partners, to promote implementation of the actions contained in the Programme of Action by translating them into specific measures within its national development framework and poverty eradication strategy, in particular, where they exist, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, and with the involvement of civil society, including the private sector, on the basis of a broad-based inclusive dialogue. The Council called upon the High Representative to submit his progress report in a timely manner so as to enable due consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action at the substantive sessions of the Council, and invited all development partners, and United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, to extend to the Office of the High Representative their collaboration in the fulfilment of its mandate.

G. Support provided by Member States to the Office of the High Representative

29. The High Representative has been meeting on a regular basis with representatives of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and their development partners in order to focus renewed attention on the implementation of the relevant programmes of action. He held his first meeting with the representatives of the least developed countries on 18 April 2002, to brief them on the responsibilities and planned activities of the Office. The representatives of the least developed countries expressed their full support for the effective functioning of the Office in carrying out the implementation of the Programme of Action. The High Representative held separate meetings with representatives of landlocked developing countries on 18 June 2002 and of small island developing States on 26 April 2002.

30. International development partners gave special attention to the concerns of the least developed countries in the outcome documents of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO held at Doha in November 2001, and the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in March 2002. The meeting of the Group of Eight, held at Kananaskis, Canada, in June 2002, took into account the concerns of the least developed countries and agreed on a goal for duty-free and quote-free market access for all products originating from those countries, an

increase of US$ 1 billion to fully fund the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund, and an increase in the use of grants rather than loans for the poorest debt-vulnerable countries. In the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[8] it is emphasized that progress in implementing the internationally agreed development goals will require that the international community implement the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, such as the programmes of action adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

31. The High Representative briefed the Secretary-General and other senior officials of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union, at Addis Ababa. Subsequently, at the invitation of OAU, a representative of the Office of the High Representative participated in the OAU/African Union Summit, held at Durban, South Africa, from 28 June to 10 July 2002. He also established contacts with the senior officials of the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development with a view to forging close working relationships, given that 34 of the 49 least developed countries are located in Africa.

32. The High Representative visited the Headquarters of the European Commission at Brussels on 24 May 2002, and briefed senior officials on the activities of the Office and sought the support and cooperation of the Commission in the effective implementation of the Programme of Action. The High Representative also briefed representatives of the European Union in New York on the activities of the Office. At the invitation of the Government of Japan, the High Representative visited Japan from 26 to 29 July and held discussions with senior officials on enhancing that Government's support for the least developed countries, particularly focusing on the needs of the least developed countries in Africa and on maximizing the benefit from the potential synergy between the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development processes.

H. Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries, Cotonou, 5-7 August 2002

33. The Government of Benin, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Least Developed Countries, convened the first Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries at Cotonou, from 5 to 7 August 2002. The key issues discussed at the Conference included: (a) the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action from the perspective of the least developed countries and the actions taken by development partners to meet their commitments; (b) issues of concern to the least developed countries in follow-up to major global events, including the Ministerial Meeting of WTO and International Conference on Financing for Development; (c) treatment of the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in upcoming major events, in particular the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and (d) developments relating arrangements for the follow-up of the Programme of Action. The Office of the High Representative provided substantive support to the Conference, which was also supported by the Government of Denmark.

34. The Ministerial Conference drew attention to the vital role that commodities and agriculture play in the economies of the least developed countries, as important providers of employment, export earnings and governmental revenue. In this context, the ministers called for strengthened collaboration among the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification particularly in Africa, UNCDF, the Global Environmental Facility and the Common Fund for Commodities and invited the international community to increase its financial and technical support to these instruments and institutions. The Conference also welcomed the measures taken by developed and developing countries, as well as by multilateral organizations, to promote South-South cooperation, and called on those stakeholders to substantially enhance their resources and efforts for capacity-building and development in the least developed countries, including the importance of sharing best practice in sustainable development in the least developed countries.

35. The Ministerial Conference in the Cotonou Declaration, welcomed the establishment of the Office of the High Representative and expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General for the appointment of the High Representative. They also called for the establishment of a trust fund for the least developed countries, to be managed by the Office of the High Representative, with the aim of providing support to the least developed countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

I. Enhancing the operational capacity of organizations of the United Nations system

36. The Secretary-General is fully committed to enhancing the operational capacities of the organizations of the United Nations system to assist more effectively developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, for the attainment of the goals and objectives agreed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus,[9] the Doha Development Agenda,[10] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development,[8] the relevant programmes of actions for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The United Nations is requested to deal with almost every aspect of international cooperation. Its programme of work will need to be adjusted accordingly in order to support international goals and priorities established in the Millennium Declaration and in the above outcomes of the major conferences. The United Nations must have a greater capacity to address the needs of developing countries and, in particular, the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

37. The Secretary-General has recently launched the millennium campaign to increase support for development assistance, trade opportunities, debt relief, the transfer of technology and the other support needed to achieve the millennium development goals. The global millennium campaign will target intergovernmental and international bodies and forums at the global and regional levels, national Governments and legislatures, civil society organizations, the private sector and the media.

38. The organizations of the United Nations system will further mainstream the implementation of the outcomes of major international conferences into their relevant activities, and align their activities in order to provide synergy and complementarities. In his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General has presented a set of proposals aimed at ensuring that the Organization devotes its attention to the priorities agreed by Member States, and that the Secretariat provides better services. Particular attention was given to the enhancement of the operational capacity of the organizations of the United Nations system by establishing better coordinated, well-defined, and more effective roles and responsibilities for the various United Nations entities.

39. The relevance, capacity and effectiveness of the United Nations will be further strengthened. The resident coordinator system will be further strengthened in order to provide better support to development and humanitarian programmes. The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in each country will improve their coordination and capacity to deliver efficient services whenever feasible through the pooling of resources, joint programming and establishing common database and knowledge networks.

40. It is the view of UNCTAD that, in enhancing its operational capacity, full consideration should be given to the additional activities generated by the outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO. Priority will be given to increasing the capacity of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, for their effective participation in the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda. Budgetary implications for the additional mandates given to UNCTAD in relation to that Agenda will be taken into consideration in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

III. Conclusion

41. **Outlined in the present report are the steps that have been taken to implement General Assembly resolution 56/227. As we continue to strengthen the mechanisms for the follow-up of the relevant programmes of action in favour of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, it is crucial that particular attention be given to the effective monitoring of the implementation of these initiatives. While the primary responsibility will continue to be that of the countries for whose benefit the programmes of action have been developed, the goals and objectives cannot be met without the collaboration and support of their development partners. The Office of the High Representative will play a key role in this process, and I trust that Member States will continue to support the Office in order to enable it to carry out fully its mandated tasks. I am pleased that the High Representative has already established excellent working relations with members of the United Nations family and, in particular, with UNCTAD. I would like to conclude by reiterating my commitment to ensure that the United Nations system as a whole will support the development efforts of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in a well-coordinated manner.**

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), chap. III, sect. B.

[2] See TD/B/42(1)/11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7.

[3] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.D.13.

[5] See DP/2002/23.

[6] See E/2002/L.10; to be issued in final form in *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 14* (E/2002/34/Rev.1).

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16*, (A/57/16), chap. III, sect. B.

[8] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (A/CONF.199/20), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] See the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO (A/C.2/56/7, annex).